

February 26, 2023

Written testimony submitted to the Connecticut General Assembly Housing Committee in support of HB 6633: AN ACT CONCERNING A NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND FAIR SHARE PLANS FOR MUNICIPALITIES TO INCREASE AFFORDABLE HOUSING.

Dear Representative Luxenberg, Senator Moore, and members of the Housing Committee:

My name is Jane Zande. I am a member of Congregation Beth Israel in West Hartford, which is a founding member of the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (GHIAA).

I am writing in support of HB 6633. This bill will make our suburbs more inclusive places to live and contribute to the economic growth and revitalization of our cities.

I live in a West Hartford neighborhood near the Hartford line. Our neighborhood incorporates diverse housing stock, with apartment buildings, rental units in multi-family homes, and single family homes. We interact with people from lots of interesting backgrounds. It is a vibrant, safe neighborhood with residents of all ages, from families with young children to older people.

Multi-family housing is an asset of our neighborhood, not a drawback. It gives young people and families a place to start their lives. It adds to the vitality of life not only in our neighborhood, but in West Hartford. It allows our town not just to continue to exist, but to thrive.

Although this is a much more affordable section of West Hartford than other areas, it still is expensive to move into this area. I applaud West Hartford's most recent initiative to build affordable housing right down the street from me.

I look forward to a time when Connecticut's zoning and planning systems are fair and equitable and we can enjoy more affordable housing units throughout the state. Fair Share Planning and Zoning is a proven strategy, and I support it.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this bill.

Jane Zande
West Hartford